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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Telephone Conversation with
President Vladimir Putin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Yuri Shkeyrov
Notetaker: Jared Thomas, Renata Serafin,
Noelle Neimer, and Jeff Blair

DATE, TIME September 23, 2004, 2:49 - 3:07 p.m., EDT
AND PLACE:

The President: Vladimir, how are you? (U)

President Putin: Hello, George. (U)

The President: How are you doing, Vladimir? (U)

President Putin: My welcome to you George. I'm glad you
responded to my call. (U)

The President: Anytime, anytime. (U)

President Putin: I would like to express my gratitude to you
for making your unusual step for American diplomacy: Your visit
to our Embassy in Washington. We here, not only the leadership
but the entire country, paid attention to that visit. Thank you
very much for that. The last time I spoke to you was on the eve
of the Republican convention and I'm glad that the convention
supported your ideas. We analyzed your address to the U.N. and
we agree with the dominant aspects of your report. You said all
civilized countries should make war against terrorism and that
is important. It will increase our interaction and strengthen
our forces. As to Russian democracy, the rumors of its death
have been greatly exaggerated by your advisors. We will not
only act within the letter of our constitution, but also in its
spirit. We are facing a serious challenge, and we will

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strengthen the state and society. I also have a practical matter, it concerns our interactions on the framework of nonproliferation. As far as I know in Washington these days, you've signed a joint memorandum regarding the strategic cooperation with India. This memorandum states directly about the possibility of delivering nuclear material to India. India is a great country and our partner in many respects and we support that measure. We support the development and the relationship with that country. I think that the tools of nonproliferation should not be used in competition and I think that I would like our experts to meet each other and discuss these problems. It is more important that we should reach a common understanding regarding Iran, and, as I understand the developments, the situation in that country is not moving in a better direction. I would not like to take more of your time, I simply wanted to thank you for visiting our Embassy in Washington and congratulate you on your victory at the Republican convention, that's all. (S)

The President: Thank you very much, Vladimir. It is nice to hear your voice. Just a couple of points. One, we will work in a peaceful way with India. We don't want to upset the balance of power between India and Pakistan. They are both our friends. All will be done in the framework of the international treaties that we signed with India on proliferation. Secondly, I do very much appreciate your sober and realistic view of Iran. I think it is very important that you and I continue to work together on this very important issue. Thirdly, I very much appreciate your statement that democracy is living in Russia. It is very important for me and the world to hear that you and I have had long discussions on this matter and as you embrace democracy, you will find it easier to gain the confidence of countries to your West. Two other points: Allawi, Prime Minister Allawi, was in my office today and he said he was going to meet you very soon and that he was very excited to meet you. I told him he was going to meet a good man in Vladimir Putin. I am not sure if he would meet you personally or talk to you, but I would be interested in knowing what you think of the man. Finally, it was my honor to go to the Embassy. I am glad that the people of Russia got to hear my deep concerns and condolences. These terrorists are cold-blooded killers and what they did to those children was terrible. I thank you for your friendship and give my best to your family. Hello? (S)

(Line dropped at 3:01 p.m. EDT. Re-established at 3:03 p.m. EDT.)

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The President: Vladimir. Good, thank you very much. Just a couple of quick points. One, I heard you on India. Two, Iran, thank you for working on Iran. Three, thank you for your statement on democracy. Four, I understand you are going to talk to Allawi. I saw him today and he is a good man, a strong man. Finally, thank you for your leadership on Beslan, it was my honor to go to your Embassy. (S)

President Putin: Thank you very much, George. I would like to express my condolences on the killing of the two American hostages in Iraq. (S)

The President: Thank you very much. (U)

President Putin: I understand this is bad not just for the families but also for you on the eve of your elections. I wish you to be strong and courageous. (S)

The President: I really was happy to talk to you and we have just five weeks until the election is over. After the election is over I will be able to relax and talk to you more. In the meantime, give all my best to your family. (S)

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President Putin: Give my best to your family and Laura. (U)

The President: Okay, goodbye. Thank you, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Goodbye, George. Thank you, all the best.
(U)

-- End of Conversation --